An Account of ſome Books.

I. ΚΛΑΥΔΙΟΥ ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ ΑΡΜΟΝΙΚΩΝ ΒΙΒΛΙΑ Γ.

CLAUDII PTOLEMÆI *Harmonicorum Libri Tres. Ex Codd. Mſſ. Undecim, nunc primum Græce Editi.* Johannes Wallis, *ſſ. Th. D. Geometriæ Profeſſor Savilianus Oxoniæ, Regiæ Societatis Londini Sodalis, Regiæque Majeſtati a Sacris; Recenſuit, Edidit, Verſione & Notis illuſtravit, & Auctarium adjecit. Oxonii, e Theatro Sheldoniano*, A. D. 1682. In Quarto.

THis work having been never before Printed in *Greek*, and but very imperfectly in *Latine*, by *Anton. Gogavinus* of *Graves*, above a 100 Years ſince, when good skill in the *Greek* Tongue was more rare: our learned Profeſſor took it for a Task well agreeing with his Province, to give it us in a more perfect Edition. For which purpoſe, he hath moſt diligently compared the *Manuſcript* Copies, for reſtoring and perfecting the *Greek* Text. And adjoyned a new *Latine* Tranſlation of the whole: together, with *Notes* on the *Text*. Therein rectifying many Miſtakes of the *Tranſcribers*; eſpecially in the *Numbers*; which (by Calculation of the whole anew, according to the mind of *Ptolemy*, declared in the Text) he hath reſtored to their Integrity.

This Work of *Ptolemy*, gives an Account of the Nature of Sounds in general, but eſpecially of thoſe which are *Muſical*; as of the ſeveral Sorts of *Tones*, and their *Ratio's* one to another; with other Particulars. Shewing alſo, how *Harmony* may be fitly compared to the *Motions* of the *Humane Soul*; and thoſe of *Cæleſtial Bodys*. And is the more conſiderable, as being not only the beſt of all the *Greek Muſicians*; but as it alſo gives an Account of the reſt; wherein they agreed, or diſagreed, one with another; and upon what Principles.

There is alſo added an *Appendix*, by the *Doctor*, Containing a brief Account of the *Ancient Harmonicks*, according to the different *Sects* of the *Authors*, compared one with another; and with the *Muſick* of this *Age*: Shewing how

how and wherein the *Greek Muſick* agreed or differ'd from ours; And how the ſeveral particulars thereof, are, for the moſt part, retained in ours, but very differently expreſſed; and what in the one, anſwers to what in the other. There is herein, a ſhort Collection of all or moſt of what occurs material, in the ſeveral *Greek* Authors on this Subject; as well thoſe Publiſhed by *Meibomeus*, as others yet remaining amongſt us in *Manuſcript*; all Methodically digeſted, and brought into a Narrow Compaſs, that the *Reader* may have at once a view of the *Greek* and *Modern Muſick*, compared together. A Work which we doubt not, will be very acceptable to thoſe who are willing to look into the *Speculative Part* of *Muſick*.

He hath now alſo, in the Preſs at *London*, a Treatiſe of *Algebra*, Hiſtorical and Practical; Shewing its Original and Progreſs in ſeveral Ages, and the ſeveral ſteps whereby it hath advanced to the height at which now it is. Whereof a further Account is intended, when it is Printed.

II. *Obſervations upon the* DUBLIN-BILLS *of* Mortality, 1681. *And the* STATE *of that* CITY. *By the Obſervator on the* LONDON-BILLS *of* Mortality. London *Printed for* Mark Pardoe *at the* Black Raven *over againſt* Bedford-Houſe *in the* Strand, 1683.

THis little Book (conſiſting but of 3 Sheets of Paper) is *Magnum in Parvo*. Conteining very Conſiderable Remarques deduced only from 6 *London-Bills*, 15 *Dublin-Bills*, and a Note of the Families and Hearths in each Pariſh of *Dublin*: all digeſted into 3 Tables, marked *A*, *B*, *C*, which the excellent Author ingeniouſly, yet gravely and truly, calls, *The* A, B, C, *of Publique Oeconomy*.

To which he hath alſo ſubjoyned, the Forms for *Weekly*, *Quarterly*, and *Yearly Bills*, in 3 Tables; which he conceivs might be made an Excellent Inſtrument of Government: And to that end propoſeth them to the Conſideration of Authority.

III. JOHANNES GODARTIUS of INSECTS.

Done into Engliſh, *and Methodized; with the Addition of Notes. By* Martin Liſter *Eſq; The Figures Etched upon Copper, by Mr.* F. Pl. York, *Printed by* J. White, *for the Publiſher*, 1682. *In* Quarto.

THe Learned *Interpreter* doth conjecture, That *Godartius* had no deſign of Publiſhing his *Papers* of this *Subject*; but only to gratify his Phancy, and the Excellent Skill he had in Limning. As appears from his almoſt total neglect of *Deſcriptions*, which he had ſufficient opportunity to have well performed: Beſides the tumultuous *Order* in which they were firſt Publiſhed, after his Death. So that he ſeems rather to have diverted himſelf by converſing with theſe *Animals*, (which he did for 40 *Years*) than to have given himſelf the trouble of well underſtanding them.

And yet after all this (ſaith Mr. *Liſter*) we ſhall find him every where, very juſt and true in his *Obſervations*. That all the *Inſects* he writes of, he moſt induſtriouſly *fed*, and brought up to their *Change*, which is more than any Man ever did before him. And though the *Hiſtorys* he hath given, may ſeem but few, for ſo long a time; yet in theſe few, we have ſomething of all the *Genus's* of *Inſects* that are in Nature.

He left his *Papers* in *Dutch*; which were ſeveral Times put forth in *Latine*, by divers *Interpreters*; but thoſe wholy ignorant in *Natural Hiſtory*; and their *Comments* altogether impertinent to the Explication of any one *Hiſtory* of *Godartius*. Which therefore, in this *Tranſlation* are all omitted; and many Curious and Luciferous *Remarques* ſubjoyned to the Authors *Text*. Which is here alſo reduced to a *Method* more agreeable to the ſeveral *Tribes* of *Inſects*. Whereby thoſe, who have leiſure, may be put into a ready way of purſuing this Part of *Natural Hiſtory*.

Mr.

Mr. *Liſter* hath alſo taken great Care, and at his own Charges, to have all the *Figures* finely *Etched* upon *Copper Plates*. The whole Impreſſion, intended for the more curious, conſiſts but of 150 Copies.

IV. EPISTOLA INVITATORIA,

Ad Obſervationes Magneticæ Variationis, communi Studio junctisque laboribus inſtituendas. Dat. Altorfi Noricorum Pridie Feſti Paſchalis, 1682.

DR. *Sturmius. Mathem.* Profeſſor at *Altorf*, the Author of this Letter, herein firſt takes notice of the ſeveral ſteps by which the Doctrine of the *Magnet*, hath been advanced to its preſent State. That its Power of attracting Iron, hath been taken notice of beyond all *Hiſtory*. But that its verticity to the *Poles*, was firſt obſerved about 400 years ſince by our Countryman *Roger Bacon*. That it gives the ſame vertue to Steel, (whence the Invention of the *Needle* between 300 and 400 years ſince) by the *Italians*. The various Delineation of the *Needle* from the *Meridian* in various Places, by *Sebaſtianus*, *Cabottus*. The Inclination hereof to the nearer *Pole*, by our Countryman *Robert Norman*. And that within theſe few Years, the Variation of the Declination, and that in one and the ſame place, hath alſo been taken notice of by *Mr. Hevelius*, *Auzout*, *Petit*, *Volckamer*, and others.

Upon conſideration whereof, and for that it ſeems by the Obſervations mentioned, that the ſaid Variation being regularly made, depends not, according to the Conjecture of *Des-Cartes*, upon the Earth, its being more *Irony* or *Magnetick* in ſome places, than in others; nor upon any other irregular Cauſe: he here Incites the Ingenious in all Countrys, to give their joynt aſſiſtance, for the bringing this *Point* to a certainty. From whence we may reaſonably expect, amongſt other particulars, great Improvements in theſe two, *Navigation* and *Geography*.

For

For this purpoſe, he wiſhes, That the Obſervations may be made every where about the ſame time, eſpecially, about the *Equinoxes* and the *Summer Solſtice*. That the *Meridian* line be taken by *Azimouths*, as one of the beſt ways. That every Obſervation be made at leaſt with two *Needles*; and that theſe *Needles* be neither too little, nor too great; he having frequently experienced the deceitfulneſs of both extremes. Concluding with a Caution, that the Obſervations be made upon an exact level.

It is intended, that the *Tranſactions* for the next Month, ſhall come forth about the end of the *Term*.

LONDON:

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